AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-34. (cancelled)

35. (currently amended) A communication system for a prepaid utility service, the system comprising a utility host for managing a customer account, a customer interface for displaying information regarding the customer account, and a control assembly for controlling the utility service, the utility host configured for communicating with the customer interface and with the control assembly, the communication system having no dedicated wiring between the customer interface and the control assembly, the communication system being configured to implement a disconnect command from the utility host at a specified time of day.

36. (previously presented) The communication system of claim 35 wherein the customer interface is configured for communicating with the control assembly.

37. (cancelled)

38. (currently amended) A method for communicating information relating to a utility service between a utility host, a customer interface, and a control assembly for said utility service, the method comprising:

determining an amount of prepaid service remaining in a customer account;

communicating the determined amount of prepaid service remaining in the customer account from the utility host to the customer interface for display to the customer; [[and]]

communicating a disconnect command from the utility host to the control

assembly when the amount of prepaid service in the customer account is exhausted;

and

implementing the disconnect command at a specified time of day.

39. (new) The communication system of claim 35 wherein the specified time of

day is during daylight hours.

40. (new) The method of claim 38 wherein the specified time of day is during

daylight hours.

41. (new) A communication system for a prepaid utility service, the system

comprising a utility host for managing a customer account relating to a utility service

provided to a customer premises, a customer interface for displaying information

regarding the customer account, and a control assembly for controlling the utility

service, the utility host configured for communicating with the customer interface and

with the control assembly, the communication system having no dedicated wiring

between the customer interface and the control assembly, the communication system

configured to implement a restore command from the utility host only when someone is

present at the customer premises.

42. (new) The communication system of claim 41 wherein the customer

interface is configured to receive a manual update to determine when someone is

present at the customer premises.

43. (new) The communication system of claim 41 wherein the customer

interface is configured to receive a PIN code to determine when someone is present at

the customer premises.

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44. (new) A method for communicating information relating to a utility service provided to a customer premises between a utility host, a customer interface, and a control assembly for said utility service, the method comprising:

determining an amount of prepaid service remaining in a customer account;

communicating the determined amount of prepaid service remaining in the customer account from the utility host to the customer interface for display to the customer;

communicating a restore command from the utility host to the control assembly; and

implementing the restore command only when someone is present at the customer premises.

45. (new) The method of claim 44 further comprising receiving a manual update to determine when someone is present at the customer premises.

46. (new) The method of claim 44 further comprising receiving a PIN code to determine when someone is present at the customer premises.